

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#2a
NEAL

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT (A)

Box: PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculating the filing fee, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly rewrite claims 3, 4, 8, 9 and 12-15 as follows:

3. (Amended) The reforming method specified in Claim 1, comprising a reforming tube (10) composed of two or more of the reforming rooms (6) connected in series, and a reformer housing (12) that encases the reforming tube, wherein a high-temperature heating gas (16) is introduced into the space (14) formed between the reforming tubes and the reformer housing, and after the first catalyst (8a) and the second catalyst (8b) have been heated up from outside the reforming room, the gas mixture (2) is

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